

The Overton Oracle



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January 2012

Overton's Free Newspaper - issued monthly

Happy New Year to all our Oracle Readers & Distributors

Overton says thank you to Mrs Clarke

After 25 action packed and fun filled years as headteacher at St Mary's, Mrs Pat Clarke has decided that this Christmas would be her last at school as she looks forward to a very well earned retirement.

On the afternoon of the 13th of December the school held a service in St Mary's Church, to celebrate her incredible contribution to school life in Overton over the last quarter of a century. The church was packed with school, past pupils, past staff, families and friends, plus Mrs Clarke's family and grandchildren.

Fitting tributes were read out by Richard Done and John McCusker, on behalf of the P.T.A. and Governors, plus Matthew Lawrenson gave a very heartfelt speech on behalf of past pupils. The current teaching staff then read out a poem of thanks. However, the real stars of the show, as always, were the pupils, each year group reading out wonderful tributes ranging from "You give the best hugs ever" to "I wish the Government would raise the retirement age to 70 so you could stay in school much longer!". The pupils also sang songs of thanks that led to the dabbing of many an eye.



Many presentations were made to Mrs Clarke during the service, the highlight of which was a beautiful lectern to be used in the school hall. Made by Rob Lawrenson, it was skillfully crafted from Oak and Yew and featured words such as Peace, Love and Respect. These were words that parents chose to form the basic ethos of the

Dylan Williams conducts the school choir

new school when it opened 25 years ago. The lectern was blessed by Reverend David Child to further the link between the school and the church and will stay in school to be used in collective worship services and act as a lasting tribute to a truly inspirational leader.

*by Darren Morris
Deputy Headteacher*



Staff of St Marys pay tribute to their Headmistress

Ramblings From the Reverend

by David Child



Happy New Year! Though mind you, the Christian year began some four weeks ago on Advent Sunday. Advent Sunday is in fact both the beginning and the end. The Christian year is different from the calendar year because it goes round and round and where it begins it also ends. It's a circle representing eternity.

The calendar year, on the other hand, goes on and on in the long straight line of evolving history. But there is something more besides the on and on, besides one thing after another – there's the meaning and the love that watches over all of us. And that's the message of Christmas – that God hasn't stayed in his eternity, outside our troubled history of conflict, disasters and crises. God comes down to earth, down into our history, to reassure us that he takes our time seriously and that he wants to spend and share time with us.

And January 1st – it's eight days after Christmas, the day when Joseph declared that the name of the baby he held in his arms was Jesus. When we know a person's name we get to know that person and Jesus, his name means Saviour. God knows our names and each New Year begins with a reminder that we know His name and that we can again start a relationship with him even if it does feel to us that he has been absent from us for some time.

Looking forward to the year ahead may cause many of us a degree of anxiety. 'What will this year bring upon the world? Shall we be able to cope with whatever comes along?' It's when we are worried in those terms that it's good to remember that the child born in Bethlehem reminds us that God says, 'Let's take it from here, and whatever comes, let's see what we can make of it.'

And 'things they are a changing' there will indeed be changes in Overton in the school as well as the church at the beginning of this New Year. In St Mary's School we shall welcome Gary Wyn-Jones as head to replace Mrs. Clarke. And I shall be appointed as the Rev'd David Lewis' successor here in Overton and in Erbistock. I shall be inducted to both parishes in St Mary's on January 11th at 7 pm by the Bishop of St. Asaph. This will be as much a village event as a church event and you are all welcome.

So let us welcome the New Year and the challenges it brings. Let us pray that God will bless this coming year, give us time for the task, peace for the pathway, wisdom for the work and love to the last.

With every blessing for 2012,

David

COUNTRY BEAT

by PCSO Bethan Large



Hello Everyone,

Hope that you had a good Christmas! And even though it is a fun and festive time please can I take this opportunity to remind you all to be extra cautious with security in and around your home. Make sure everything is locked up and when you are out shopping that no valuables are left on display. Also, as it is the party season I cannot stress enough the seriousness of drinking and driving. Everyone should be enjoying themselves, but please arrange a taxi or lift and never ever drink and drive even if you feel fine.

As it's that time of year the weather is getting colder and no doubt the bad weather will be upon us very soon. Always drive to the weather conditions, if it's frosty or there is snow on the ground keep your speed slow. Last but not least can I ask that you keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable neighbours during this time, pop and see them or call for a cup of tea. You may not think you are doing a lot but they will appreciate the company and your also checking on their welfare.

Many thanks for all your support. Hope that you've had very Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year from your local policing team here at Overton.

Beth

PCSO 2892 Beth Large

☎ Phone number 08456071002

☎ Ext 48425

✉ e mail Bethan.Large@nthwales.pnn.police.uk

Medical Practice

We have just about changed all the existing prescriptions to one month's supply in line with the Welsh Government and local health board directives. There has been an increased uptake of the internet facility, with over 900 patients now able to book appointments with Doctors and order repeat prescription online. Just ask at reception if you wish to become part of this new community if you have access to a computer at home or work.

To improve our services to patients we have just made an investment in 2 Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitors (ABPM). Under the direction of a clinician, these pocket-sized machines will help us to continuously monitor a patient's blood pressure, over a defined period. The results are then automatically downloaded to your medical records for review.

We still have Flu Injections available for those of you who are in the "At Risk" groups or over 65, on immunosuppressant drugs, or Pregnant. Just ring the surgery to make an appointment.

Neighbourhood Assistance Scheme (NAS)

Two harsh winters have highlighted for all of us, how vulnerable we are to the elements and 'natural' disasters. This sparked an idea which is aimed at providing help and support for anyone in our community at times of crisis, or when they feel vulnerable.

We are planning to create the Neighbourhood Assistance Scheme (NAS) for anyone needing help, whether because of illness, injury, family tragedy – or just the weather!

Overton Community Council have therefore printed and distributed the NAS posters, which can be displayed in windows by residents to signal that they need some assistance. On the reverse of each card you will see a list of useful telephone numbers including emergency and non emergency numbers for public services.

Please look out for these posters being displayed in windows. If you are able to offer assistance please do so.

Any resident requiring further posters please contact the clerk, Katrina Chalk, at the offices of Overton Community Council in the village hall, telephone her on 710055, or email her at occ.clerk@btinternet.com or any of the following community councillors: - Edward Broad, David Burton, David Hughes, Rob Lawrenson, Peter Lynch, Joanne Kember, Jacky Maskell, Mike Minihane, Lesley Pugh or Catherine Stark-ey.

Overton Community Council

1st Overton Scout Group

Congratulations to those members of 1st Overton Beavers and Cubs who stood up and sang in front of 600 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and all the parents who packed out St Giles Church in Wrexham for the District Scouts Carol Concert.

The Scout Group celebrated Christmas with parties in all the sections. The Explorers thank the Scouts for their invite to their highly successful Christmas pyjama party.

History Group



The next meeting of the Overton History group will be on Tuesday January 24th at 7.30pm upstairs in the White Horse.

At this meeting we will be starting to collect memories of transport in and out of the village.

If you have pictures or memories of the old bus services, the taxi, bicycles, old cars, the charabang for outings, pony and traps etc then do come along and share them with the group.

Kids Kolumn

by Kate Jenkinson, Charley Middleton and Robyn Rehbock!



Hiya Gang,
Did you have a good Christmas and New Year?

Winter Jokes

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
Frosted Flakes!

What do you call an old snowman?
Water!

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
Frost Bite!

Hello From Around the World!!

Look in the word search and find out how to say hello in other languages!

A	Y	A	I	Z	S	S	R
H	R	X	L	D	N	A	U
A	S	E	X	O	B	G	O
L	S	Q	M	A	H	H	J
L	Z	Q	H	I	O	A	N
O	D	R	A	L	L	X	O
Y	E	L	A	R	N	A	B
M	N	A	Z	D	A	R	K

Kalimera (Greece)
Hola (Spain)
Nazdar (Czechoslovakia)
Hallo (The Netherlands)

Bonjour (France)
Merhaba (Turkey)
Aloha (Hawaii)
Szia (Hungary)



Do you know who this celebrity singer is?
Clue: He likes you just the way you are.

Lunch Club



The Overton Lunch Club is on Wednesday 11th January at 12.30pm at the White Horse. The menu will be Full Welsh Brunch Breakfast followed by Coconut and Orange Sponge with custard.

To book please ring Gwynneth Austin on 710672.

Ordination of New Rector

An event which has only happened twice in the village in the last 15 years will take place in January.

On Wednesday, January 11th at 7 o' clock in St. Mary's Church, Overton, the Reverend David Child will be inducted as the new rector of the Overton parish.

The Bishop of St.Asaph, Bishop Gregory will be present to carry out the ceremony. All who wish to attend the service, celebrate the official induction, and witness a little of Overton's Christian history (which stretches back over a thousand years) will be very welcome.

The Overton-on-Dee Film Club Review

A bumper audience of film enthusiast descended on the Overton village hall to watch 'The Help,' directed and written by Tate Taylor starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer and based on the popular novel of the same title by Kathryn Stockett. This was the second film of the club's season albeit the first review (ever) Being a day of firsts the eager onlooker's enjoyed a brief introduction by the club's very own Professor Dumbledore – Wilf MacDonald-Brown- who explained that the film was being shown (they will be in the future also) on an £85,000 digital projector. This made for terrific viewing.

Briefly, 'The Help' tells the storey of 'Skeeter,' aspiring twenty-something Caucasian female journalist/author who in-turn is intent on telling the story of the hardships experienced by African American maids during the dramatic 1960's civil rights movement in the deep and notoriously divided Mississippi. The Help focuses on the point of view of two maids- 'Aibileen' initially who is then joined by 'Minny' (who is anything but). As 'Skeeter' gradually ostracises herself from the comfort of her harem of shallow white girly cronies finding favour and confidence with our two maids the audience is treated to some of the more ridiculous rules imposed by their employees.

The maids are not without their revenge and a whole new meaning is given to the popular- Mississippi Mud Pie! That said with the film's light hearted approach it does not appear to go far enough, and leaves a great deal to the imagination, of the real hardships that surely must have been far more profound in these extraordinary times of division. Dare it be said 'The Help' almost (almost) romanticises the serious issues at it's core – being the tragedies experienced by people because of the colour of their skin. All in all a good film for your DVD collection but should perhaps have delved deeper.

Three Stars out of Five.

The Club's next showing will be the wildly acclaimed '**Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy**' at the Village Hall on Tuesday 24th January 2012. For further info please contact overton.film.club@googlemail.com

from O....FEC (Overton's Film Entertainment Critic)



Exciting New Befriending Service for over 50s

The Penley Rainbow Centre is delighted to announce that they are now running a free Befriending Service for individuals over 50, living in the Rural Maelor area of Wrexham. The service engages with individuals in the community, offering a face to face befriending service.

Our team of befrienders can visit befriendees in their own homes or in a local venue of their choice for a weekly chat. As the relationship develops, the befriender and the befriendeed can plan activities and local outings together, or join in with the wider social activities and events being arranged from the Centre.

The project aims to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation felt by the over 50's, which may have arisen due to any number of reasons such as retirement, ill health or bereavement. The project also aims to increase individual's social networks and their confidence to manage life changes.

Are you over 50 and interested in being befriended? Contact the befriending team on 01948 830 730

Interested in becoming a Volunteer? Our befrienders are volunteers from the local community, who have a few hours a week to support the people in their communities. The befrienders are offered training and support in their roles and are valued members of the Rainbow Centre.

If you would like to volunteer on the project as a Befriender we would welcome your support and hope that in return we can make you feel part of the Centre, meet new friends and join in with our social activities arranged for volunteers. In February we are arranging a trip to the theatre and hold a different social event each month. If you would like to become a volunteer please call our **Befriending team 01948 830 730**, or attend one of our '**Volunteers Open Days**' at the Penley Rainbow Centre, 18th January and 8th February 10am-12pm.



Public Toilets

Overton Community Council would like to advise residents that a petition is available, in many of the local shops, café/deli and the White Horse, for people to sign.

This is to show their support for the public toilets, situated in Overton car park, to remain open and be run by Wrexham County Borough Council.

The completed petition will be delivered to the Local Authority in mid January 2012.



British Legion

It was good to see such a good turnout for Remembrance Sunday this year. Although the Royal British Legion numbers continue to decline it was more than made up for by a 50 strong contingent of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts from Overton Scout Group. Also represented were the Brownies, St Mary's School and the police. The Church was packed for the service.

At the end of November a small team from the British Legion gathered at the Corner Shop to count the money collected in the Poppy Appeal. Almost £1900 was collected this year, £200 up on 2010; many thanks to Mick, Karen and their staff for all their help with the counting of the cash.

Chairman of the Royal British Legion, David Burton said that he wanted to thank all the collectors and businesses who had put collecting boxes on their counters for a great effort this year and also remarked that the declining numbers in the Legion was a natural consequence of old soldiers fading away and that it was now time for those of us, men and women, who had not served in the armed forces to step up and support the work of the Legion by joining at a cost of only £12. if you are interested phone membership secretary Gerry Owen on 710792.

About 40 people gathered at the Cenotaph on Thursday at 11am on the 11th of the 11th month 2011, i.e 11.11.11 to remember the fallen on this unique date.

Thanks to the local PCSO's for halting the traffic for 5 minutes and for their help with the Special Constables team on Remembrance Sunday.

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Most of you will have noticed that the chimes from the church clock were not ringing during the month of October. The reason for the absence of the bells and the correct time was that the church clock was being repaired.

The clock was manufactured and installed in 1862. The clock has therefore given about 150 years of good service. Signs of wear were beginning to appear on the winding ratchets and on the weight attachment mechanism, so an expensive repair (around £2,700) had to be carried out.

Everything has now been fixed and things are back to normal now so we can relax to the soothing sound of the village chimes and the knowledge that the church clock will give an accurate time.



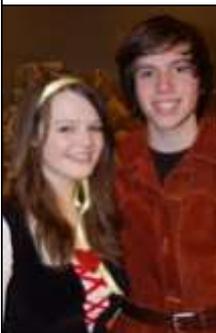
Sleeping Beauty

Sixth Form students at *The Maelor School, Penley*, have been busy putting on the Rock 'n' Roll pantomime "SLEEPING BEAUTY", by kind permission of Peter Rowe.



A talented cast of actors, singers, dancers and musicians supported by a team of backstage students, performed the show to a packed school hall on the 7th, 8th and 9th of December. The local primary schools were also invited along for a special morning performance.

Mrs Sue England, Head of 6th Form, said "The students have worked hard over the past few months and to see it all come together so well is wonderful. Their performance was superb and enjoyed greatly by the audiences."



Picture left: Sleeping Beauty & Simon Steadfast - Charlotte Galley and Matthew Thomas



Picture above: Fairies, Lauren Jones, Rebecca Overthrow and Chelsea Hart

The Hamsters return to Overton

Legendary blues/rock band The Hamsters return to Overton on Dee after their brilliant sell out night of two years ago. But this time, their appearance is more poignant as it will be part of the band's final ever tour. After 25 years and 4,000+ gigs all over the UK to sell out audiences, the band have finally decided to call it a day. So we are incredibly lucky that the Goin' Up The Country Blues Club have been asked to host one of these highly sought after gigs on Friday February 10th, 8pm for 9pm show at Overton Village Hall.

The band have long been regarded as one of the finest exponents of the music of Jimi Hendrix and ZZ Top and their set will include tracks from these artists. Tickets at £15 will be on sale at the Corner Shop and Wasons or can be ordered by ringing 01948 770215.



Welcome to Overton's newest shop

A new face on the High Street is "Higgledy Piggledy" a small family run business specialising in antiques, collectables and all things vintage.

The shop offers an array of antiques, collectables and all things vintage with an eclectic mix of 18th century furniture and 19th Century watercolours through to 1930's lighting and 1950's ceramics.

The shop looks to local crafts people to provide quality handmade goods from handbags to notebooks which complement the Higgledy Piggledy business.

We wish "Higgledy Piggledy" all best.

Marathon Challenge



Mr Dyfan Williams, a member of the PE Department at Maelor School, Penley, will be taking on the 26.2 mile challenge of the London Marathon in April next year, in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust. This charity has also been chosen by the School Council to be its nominated charity for the year and they are working together to raise both awareness and funds for Teenage Cancer Trust.

To raise funds the School Council is aiming to hold a variety of fundraising events throughout the year including a student and staff sponsored



March marathon training challenge, a charity fair, plus various other initiatives.

If anyone is able to support the challenge, provide sponsorship or make a donation, Mr Williams can be contacted at Maelor School (01948 830291) or donations can be paid directly into the fundraising account at uk.virginmoney

WHAT'S ON**January Diary for St Mary's Services**

- Sunday January 1st** 11:30am Joint Eucharist (Overton & Erbistock)
- Sunday January 8th** 10:00am Sunday Praise & coffee
- Sunday January 15th** 11:30am Holy Eucharist
- Sunday January 22nd** 10:00am Family Eucharist
- Sunday January 29th** 11.30am Joint Eucharist at St Hilary's, Erbistock

Methodist Chapel Services, Sunday evenings 6.30pm

Sunday January 8th 9pm Overton Recreation Club New Year Quiz

Monday January 9th 10.30am Overton British Legion will be meeting for coffee at Woodlands Deli

Tuesday January 10th Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so between 7.20 – 7.30pm.

Wednesday January 11th 12.30pm Overton Lunch Club at the White Horse. Booking required

Wednesday January 11th 7. pm Induction of the Rev'd David Child to the Parishes of Overton and Erbistock.

Wednesday January 18th 10am to 12pm 'Volunteers Open Day' at the Penley Rainbow Centre.

Thursday January 19th 7.30 pm Overton WI meeting at the Parish Room. Speaker: Chris Symes of Lyneal on "Turn right at the 'Rising Sun'." Competition: An Oriental item. Annual Subscriptions due this month £31.50

Monday January 23rd 7.30pm Overton & District Bowling Club AGM in the Parish Room

Tuesday January 24th 7.30pm History Group meeting upstairs at White Horse. Subject 'Transport' All welcome.

Tuesday January 24th 7.30pm Overton Film Club at the Village Hall; The film is "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy"

Monday January 30th 6pm Overton Medical Practice Patient Participation Group meeting. New members will be made very welcome.

Wednesday February 8th 10am to 12pm 'Volunteers Open Day' at the Penley Rainbow Centre.

Wednesday February 8th 7.30pm The Maelor Music Society at the Maelor School Penley presents Louis Schwizgebel-Wang on Piano

Friday February 10th 8pm for 9pm show. Blues/rock band 'The Hamsters' at Overton Village Hall

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy January birthday to Dan Hunter, Sylvia Ogden, Micki Blair, Kyle Stubbert Pugh, Raymond Austin, Nathan Ryan Tombs, Poppy Bateman Green, Jack Pritchard, Karen Pritchard and Ronnie Foster.



Belated Happy Birthday wishes to Jill Jones.

Sincere condolences to Eleanor Gooding, her family and friends on the sad death of her son David who passed away recently.

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Phyllis Margaret Wayne-Sanders, nee Richards, sometime of Bryn Cottage, Church Road, who passed away in December at a Nursing Home in Nottingham. She was 92 years of age.

Thank you

Eleanor Gooding would like to thank most sincerely everyone who attended the thanksgiving service and for the support, cards and sympathy that had been given to her on the sudden death of her only son David. He loved coming to Overton every 6 weeks and walking by the river - a relief from the pressures of London. He will rest in peace in the churchyard with his father.

Date for the diary

Overton Playcentre Nearly New Sale on Saturday 17th March at the Overton Village Hall. Further details on how to sell in February Oracle.

The Annual General Meeting of the Overton & District Bowling Club will be held in the Parish Room on Monday January 23rd at 7.30pm

**PLEASE REMEMBER**

Copy deadline 20th of the month. Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment **THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS**

Leave your contributions, & announcements at the Corner Shop.

Your Oracle Team - Chairman & Advertising David Burton; Secretary Nicole Netzband-Piggott; Treasurer Rob Netzband-Piggott; Distribution Cynthia Davies; Sean Clarke, & Euan Stevenson. Editor - Jill Burton. Tel 710631 or e-mail overtonoracle@gmail.com

All articles and advertisements in the Overton Oracle are published in good faith and without prejudice.

Space constraints mean that submitted articles may be edited or not published.

The Oracle is available on the internet. Please be mindful that personal details submitted will be available to a wider audience.

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